

DAILY REVIEW OF THE ARABIC PRESS



State Dept. review completed

For Distribution to U.S. Embassy Personnel only.

EMBASSY OF THE U.S.A., CAIRO-EGYPT.

MORNING PAPERS.

WEDNESDAY August 4th, 1948.

Palostino.
Bernadotto's arrival in Egypt.

Bernadotto's arrival in Egypt and the statements made by his Public Relations Officer George Barnes and by Sir Raphael Cilento, of the Refugee division of the Social Affairs Department of U.N.O., are given wide publicity by all the Arabic newspapers. For details see English and French press.

Arab refugees.

Commenting on the Arab refugees question, Al Misri publishes an editorial under the headline: "A winning card" in which it says: "We wrote yesterday about the right of the Arab refugees to return to their homes (See yesterday's Review) and we wish to add to-day that this question is a winning card in the hand of the Arabs of which they must take full advantage. All ears are ready to listen at present to all what the Jews or the Arabs may have to say about the refugees. We must seize this opportunity to show the world the bestialities which the Arab refugees suffered at the hands of the barbaric Zionists. Every bit of information must be made available to the world by way of photographs, articles, or broadcasts. The world must be made to realise that the so called State of Israel is nothing but a group of gangsters who would stop at nothing to get what they want".---

Under the headline: "Count Bernadotto", Al Misri writes: "Count Bernadotto arrived in Alexandria to discuss the Refugees question as well as the demilitarization of Jerusalem. We sincerely hope that he will be fair and make a serious attempt to solve these two problems especially the refugees problem which, to use Sir Raphael Cilento's expression, is rather pressing. It must be understood, however, that the question of refugees is not part of the Palestine question. The one has nothing to do with the other. The refugees question must be settled independently".

Under the headline: "The Azzam-Bernadotto discussions. The latest developments in the Palestinian question", Al Ahram the important independent daily, writes: "It is a known fact that Bernadotto is trying to make the present temporary truce a permanent one. The Mediator as well as the nations which chose him as mediator are trying to prevent the Arabs from defending themselves against Jewish aggression.

WEDNESDAY August 4th, 1948.

They hope that time will be on the side of the Jews and that Israel will ultimately be established.

"They are trying in the name of humanity to persuade the Arabs to agree to letting food supplies reach the 100,000 isolated Jews in Jerusalem who are mostly terrorists, although the number of the Arab men, women, and children who were driven out of their homes by Jewish gangs remain hungry.

"They are also trying to persuade the Arabs to agree to Jewish immigration during the truce, although there are 10,000 Arab refugees who were turned out of their homes and who have no place to sleep or food to eat.

"Bernadotte wishes to demilitarise Jerusalem but while the Arabs are ready to disarm, the Jews refuse to do so. Moreover, the Jews are daily violating the truce under the Mediator's very nose. The Arabs and their governments know all this, but they cannot be expected to remain patient for ever. It is time that the Arabs broke the international chain which binds their hands and restricts their actions, and deal the death blow to Israel to save the world from the most abominable drama".-----

Ecclasiasticals to control Jerusalem?

Al Ahram reports that Azzam Pasha has suggested to Count Bernadotte that the Administration of Jerusalem should be taken over by a body of priests and Sheikhs who would be responsible to the United Nations and the Arab League. The Count objected to the proposal on the grounds that most of the religious gentlemen would be Arab. Azzam Pasha replied that the Sheikhs and priests would represent religious bodies and not the people. The Count promised to study the proposal carefully, says Al Ahram.

Taxes for the refugees.

Al Ahram also reports that the Syrian government has agreed to Azzam Pasha's proposal that special taxes should be imposed by the Syrian government on certain luxuries such as tobacco, in aid of the Palestinian refugees. Syria, Al Ahram points out, has more Arab refugees than any other Arab country.

The paper then goes on to say that the Arab League Secretariat has sent Lebanon LE 100,000 to be spent on the Palestinian refugees there. It has also been decided to send contributions collected in Iraq to the Transjordanian government direct in aid of the Arab refugees in Transjordan. The League's Secretariat has already given Transjordan LE 25,000, while Saudi Arabia gave it LE 20,000 for the refugees fund.

"The Arab refugees problem is a shameful sin committed by the Security Council.

Under the above heading, Al Siyassa writes: "The Arab refugees question is one of the most important questions which Count Bernadotte is discussing with the Arab leaders at present. Count Bernadotte himself admits that the situa-

- 3 -

WEDNESDAY August 4th, 1948.

tion is very serious. So do most of the big nations. But none of them stopped to think how was this problem created and who is responsible for the misery of these poor refugees. The treatment of any world problem must begin at the root of the trouble. In this instance, the Security Council alone is to blame. It supported the Jewish gangsters against the peaceful Arabs for no reason at all".-----

 "We want a quick solution to the
 Refugees problem.

Under the above heading, Al Kutla publishes a short editorial, made shorter still by blank spaces appearing in its middle to indicate that the Censor disapproved of certain parts of the article. The writer says that the Arab leaders must find a quick solution to this problem and not wait while time drifts on in the hope that the problem will solve itself. The 300,000 Arab refugees are suffering terribly and they are entitled to protection, says the paper which fails however to make suggestions as to the best means of solving this problem.

 Syrian Doctors boycott U.S. Products.

Al Misri writes: Damascus August 3 (A.N.A) - A number of Damascus doctors are planning to boycott American medicines and surgical instruments. This is one result of the present tendency to impose sanctions on the U.S.A. One commercial organisation has pointed out that the value of American imports to Syria last year reached 192 million liras. It is understood that Syria will refuse to send educational missions to U.S.A.

 Arab rulers meeting this month?

Al Misri writes: Damascus August 3 (A.N.A) - A meeting of Arab Kings and Presidents - "Somewhere in the Arab World" - is likely to take place towards the end of the present month, asserts the Damascus newspaper al-Insha, which adds that preparations are already being made for the meeting.

 Arab Kings to discuss sanctions?

Al Misri writes: Damascus August 3 (A.N.A) - Barada asserts that Arab Prime Ministers will take part in a forthcoming meeting of Arab Kings and Presidents. It is added that it is expected that the meeting will result in a boycott of goods from those countries having supported Zionism and in oil sanctions.

- 4 -

WEDNESDAY August 4th, 1948.

Et tu Bruto?

Under the above heading, Al Ikhwan Al Muslimoun writes: "Some persons excused Turkey's negative attitude towards Palestine by saying that she needed American dollars. Truman, it was said, would be angry with Turkey if she displeased the Jews by supporting the Arabs. The Turks themselves tried the old game of pleasing both parties. The Turkish writer Omar Rida published a few articles, obviously inspired by the Turkish government, in support of the Arabs. The Turks thought that a few such articles would win them the friendship and gratitude of the Moslem world.

"But Turkey has taken off her mask and sent one of her ships to the Jews of Haifa loaded with food. The ship was intercepted in Lebanese waters, searched, and her cargo confiscated. Had this ship not been discovered, Omar Rida would still be writing his absurd articles about Arab-Turkish friendship. Yet Turkey hopes to make the Arabs go to her aid if she is attacked by Russia. The British want to create an Islamic League to protect Turkey. But Turkey is no more an Islamic country than Israel itself".

 "In whose interest?
 Al Assas condemns bomb outrages.

Al Assas, Nokrashi's mouthpiece, prints an article under the above headline in which it says: "These outrages do no good to Egypt and do no harm to the enemy. A bomb which is planted anywhere in Cairo is bound to hurt more Egyptians than others. In fact at least ten times as many Egyptians were hurt in the recent explosions than foreigners. Most of the property damaged was also Egyptian property. There is a general feeling of unsafety among Egyptian pedestrians these days. The shops which were meant to be blown up do not care a button whether they are blown up or not. They are fully insured against such outrages, and in most cases insured with an Egyptian insurance company. Besides, we need not stress the fact that such abominable and cowardly crimes are bound to harm Egypt's reputation abroad. We therefore refuse to believe that any Egyptian in his right mind can commit such crimes. They must have been committed either by madmen, Zionists, or communists. The duty of the Egyptians is clear. They must do everything possible to help the police bring these criminals to book.

Al Assas admits Cicurel bomb
 was planted.

Al Assas goes on to say: "Of course we do not discount the possibility that some ignorant Egyptians are under the impression that a bomb which explodes inside a Jewish-owned establishment serves the Arab cause. But if such persons exist, do they still hold the same opinion after they saw the damage done to Egyptian shops which adjoin Cicurel and the lives lost as the result of the bomb which exploded beside that shop? If such persons still persist in planting bombs in Jewish establishments then we can only say that their ignorance is a dangerous form

- 5 -

WEDNESDAY August 4th, 1948.

Another bomb.

The Arabic press gives wide publicity to the explosion which took place at the Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Company in Maadi.

Akher Sa'a, the pro-government weekly, suggests that the proprietors of Cicurel may be behind the explosions of Adès, Gattegno and Benzion. It explains this original idea by saying that Cicurel is finding it difficult to collect insurance seeing that the government maintains that the explosion which wrecked the shop was caused by a land mine dropped from an enemy plane. To show the Insurance companies that this is not the case, Cicurel engineered the series of explosions which took place recently.
